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be obtained at a moderate depth, and believed that three or four wells would suffice to carry a party through to the sources of the Camfield.

Lastly, his rations being reduced to four pounds of flour and one pound of dried meat per man per week, he made a push from Newcastle Water, across Sturt's Plains, eastwards towards Carpentaria, but was again driven back by want of water. The ground was dark and dusty, and had wholly swallowed the rain that had fallen upon it.

Mr. Stuart then fell back several stages to Tomkinson Creek, and expended his last efforts in two vain expeditions—one towards the Victoria, where he met with no scrub of serious thickness, but was repulsed by want of water; the second towards Carpentaria, over plains like Sturt's Plains, and equally impracticable for want of water; and the third towards the Victoria River. Finally, on July 12th, he returned towards Adelaide, with exhausted horses and a bare sufficiency of food.

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2. *Letters from the Governor of West Australia and the Bishop of Perth, accompanying the Journal of an Expedition undertaken by the Brothers DEMPSTER, Messrs. CLARKSON and HARPER.*

His Excellency's letter is as follows:—

“ I ENCLOSE the journal of a small affair undertaken by some young gentlemen who have been my companions in kangaroo-hunting. From a local point of view their discovery is highly interesting, inasmuch as it was believed to be impossible to penetrate far to the northward and eastward of the settled districts of ‘Northam,’ by reason of dense thickets, which turned Mr. Roe back many years ago. This expedition is, I hope, the forerunner of other and more important discoveries in the same direction; and care will be in future taken to send some scientific observers with the party, which I regret was not the case in the late instance.

“ You will observe that the information relative to white men having perished in this locality ten or twelve years ago, is very loose and unreliable. I have questioned the explorers, who can add nothing to what they have stated in their journal, namely, native *hearsay*. The alleged fact of their having horses proves that they could not have been shipwrecked sailors, and I think it highly improbable that any of Leichhardt's party could have reached such a point.

“ I begin to look for some tidings of Mr. Frank Gregory's expe-

dition with some anxiety, but without any apprehension, having full confidence in his ability and prudence.

“As our means and prosperity are rapidly on the increase, our settlers will doubtless, ere long, look for more available sheep-land in the unknown waste around us.”

THE BISHOP OF PERTH wrote in praise of the members of the Expedition. He corroborated their account of intense cold by his own experience in this unusual season.

*Journal of the Expedition.*

Messrs. C. E. Dempster, A. Dempster, B. Clarkson, C. Harper, and a native servant, left Northam on July 3, 1861, and travelled in a pretty straight course to the E.N.E. Every one of the party had two horses, and carried his own provisions of eighty pounds of flour, twenty-two pounds of pork, sixteen pounds of sugar, and three pounds of tea.

Each day's work is described in their printed account, which occupies five columns of a West Australian Journal, the “Independent,” of September 13th. The country they passed through, has the rapid alternations usual in Australian scenery, of scrub, grass, and lagoon; but the scrub was never so dense as seriously to embarrass them. The grass was sufficient for their wants, though not overabundant, and they camped by water on nearly every occasion. The only serious discomfort they endured was owing to persistent hard frost.

Their furthest point was a hill, the most considerable they had seen, which they called Mount Kennedy. They reached it on July 24th, and they place it, by dead reckoning, in s. lat.  $30^{\circ} 28'$ , and E. long.  $121^{\circ} 16'$ . Here they turned back, because the country was not inviting enough to tempt them further. There were numerous native fires in sight, and the onward route appears to have been as practicable as that which they had already passed over.

The only remarkable feature on their route to Mount Kennedy was an extensive chain of lakes, passing out of sight to the east when viewed from a neighbouring hill. By the side of this hill was a spring, apparently of petroleum. It was situated at about two-thirds of the way between Northam and Mount Kennedy. Their return journey was made by a different route, and they reached home, without loss, on August 23rd. They had been guided by a native, and heard a story from him, which was afterwards corroborated by other natives, that long ago three white men with horses, had reached a large salt water far to the east, and, after travelling about its shores, had turned back and perished.

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